

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application with independent Claim 1. Claims 1, 3 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ozaki et al. (EP 1,207,672). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki in view of Kuroda (W.S. Pub. 2004/0048632) and Pallakoff (U.S. Pub. 2002/0163504)

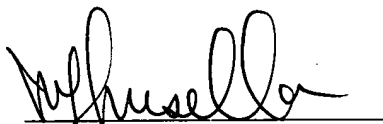
Claims 4-8 remain objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base Claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of objected to Claim 4. Please cancel Claim 4 without prejudice. Claims 5-8 have been amended to properly depend on Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability, *per se*, of dependent Claims 2-3 and 5-9, these dependent claims are likewise believed to be in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependence on amended independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, all of the claims currently pending in the Application, namely Claims 1-3 and 5-9, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Musella", written over a horizontal line.

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